

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application with Claims 1-9, 11-19, and 21-22 being rejected and Claims 10 and 20 being objected to in the present Office Action.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 12-15, and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,946,257 (Keeth); Claims 7-9, 11 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keeth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,027 (Sher); and Claims 6 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keeth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,044 (Hsu).

In response, Claims 10 and 20 have been amended, as requested by the Examiner, to place these claims in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, Claims 1, 12, 14 and 17 have been amended to make clearer a distinguishing characteristic of the present invention, namely that it is the internal voltage supply that is used to power the plurality of macros.

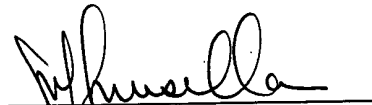
Keeth describes and claims a memory system, its teachings are thus limited to memory circuits. The present invention describes and claims the direct current isolation scheme applicable to all microelectronic integrated circuits. Further, a mechanism for disabling local generators that is used in Keeth can only partially shut down a macro. That is, the macros of Keeth are mainly powered by an external voltage supply, such as Vcc, shown in FIG. 8 of Keeth. Only a portion of these macros is powered by internally generated voltage supplies, which are at lower or higher levels than the external voltage supply. Therefore, in Keeth, when the local generators are disabled, the macros are not isolated from the main power supply. It follows that Keeth does not teach or disclose “a plurality of internal voltage supply generators, each connected to a respective macro of the plurality of macros and configured for receiving the external voltage, generating an internal voltage supply, and **using said generated internal voltage supply for operating its respective macro**”, recited in Claim 1 as amended or “second means for generating an internal voltage supply and **using said generated internal voltage supply for operating at least one of a plurality of internal voltage supply generators coupled to a respective macro of the plurality of macros**, the second means being coupled to the first means”, recited in Claim 12 as amended.

Indeed in Keeth, the purpose for disabling the generator is not to isolate the macros from the voltage supply, but rather to disable the macros, which are found defective. Keeth does not teach or describe completely isolating a selected portion of the chip from the power supply to save power when that portion of the chip is not being used. Therefore, Keeth does not disclose "at least one enable/disable circuit for selectively connecting and disconnecting at least a portion of the respective macro from the integrated circuit system", recited in Claim 1 as amended or "means for controlling the second means according to an enable/disable signal to selectively connect and disconnect at least a portion of the respective macro of the plurality of macros", recited in Claim 12 as amended.

Accordingly it is submitted that Claims 1, 10, 12, and 20 are patentable over the prior art. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-9, 11, 13-19, and 21-22, it is submitted that they as well are patentable by virtue of their dependencies on their respective independent claims. In view of the above remarks and amendments, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-22 is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that pending Claims 1-22 are believed to be in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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